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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/339,325	06/23/1999	YOAV SHOHAM	003660.P001X	2458
7590 02/23/2007 BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN 12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD 7TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90025			EXAMINER VAN BRAMER, JOHN W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3622	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		02/23/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/339,325

Applicant(s)

SHOHAM ET AL.

Examiner

John Van Bramer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 December 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-13 and 22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-13 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed on December 4, 2006, has amended Claim 22. No claims were cancelled and no new claims were added. Thus, the currently pending claims considered below remain Claims 9-13 and 22.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 9-13 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Woolston (U.S. Patent Number: 5,845,265).

Claim 22: Woolston discloses a universal auction specification system comprising:

- a. A market specification console (posting terminal 700) configured to receive at least one market protocol from a user, the at least one market protocol including

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trading primitives to dictate the behavior of the universal auction system with respect to a plurality of goods auctioned by a plurality of auction participants. (Col 4, lines 10-37; Col 10, lines 3-18; and Col 15, line 23 - Col 16, line 58).

- b. A programmable auction server (market maker computer 800), coupled to the market specification console via a network connection, the programmable auction server to receive the at least one market protocol defined by the market specification console, the programmable auction server to implement at least one of the trading primitives to deploy the universal auction system and to manage trading of the plurality of goods auctioned by the plurality of auction participants in the universal auction system. (Col 4, lines 39-58; and Col 14, lines 51-63).

Claim 9: Woolston discloses a system for conducting auctions as in Claim 22 above, and further discloses the marker specification console contains user modifiable rules (Col 5, line 48 - Col 6, line 9 and Col 17, lines 1-12).

Claim 10: Woolston discloses a system for conducting auctions as in Claim 9 above, and further discloses wherein the rules comprise at least one market protocol (Col 15, line 23 - Col 16, line 58).

Claim 11: Woolston discloses a system for conducting auctions as in Claim 9 above, and further discloses the market specification console includes a graphical user interface (GUI) to configure the market protocol (Figure 13).

Claim 12: Woolston discloses a system for conducting auctions as in Claim 11 above, and further discloses the market protocol is displayed in parameterized form on the GUI (Figure 13).

Claim 13: Woolston discloses a system for conducting auctions as in Claim 11 above, and further discloses the user defines arbitrary market protocols via the GUI (the user in Woolston uses the GUI to enter all of the selections pertaining to the auction when setting up the auction for posting to the auction server)(Figure 13).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed December 4, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
 - a. The applicant and the examiner agree that the Woolston reference meets the limitations of the claimed invention when the user is providing data for only one good auctioned by the user. The current scope of the claims encompass "at least one" data and therefore incorporate "providing data only for a good auctioned by this user". Therefore, as the applicant has admitted (Remarks, lines 10-18), data for a good auctioned by the user falls within the metes and bounds of the current claims.
 - b. Regarding the applicant's assertion that Woolston does not teach the user providing data pertaining to numerous goods auctioned by different

auction participants, the examiner disagrees. Woolston discloses numerous goods offered by different participants when discussing the establishment of a virtual market in Col 13, lines 22-57. Woolston also discloses numerous goods offered by different auction participants in Col 4, lines 9-58. This section of Woolston discloses that there are multiple consignment node users each of which can list multiple offerings on a consignment node.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Van Bramer whose telephone number is (571) 272-8198. The examiner can normally be reached on 6am - 4pm Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber can be reached on (571) 272-6724. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

jvb



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